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REPORT NO.

FLD
217

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Brazil/Dominican Republic

DATE DISTR. 18 August 1948

SUBJECT Purchase of Arms from Brazil by the Dominican Republic
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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B-2 1. The travel schedule of Colonel Rafael Augusto Espallat, reportedly in Brazil to purchase arms for the Dominican Republic, between 31 May 1948 and 30 July 1948 has been ascertained to be the following:

31 May 1948: arrived in Rio de Janeiro from Belem by commercial plane.

26 June 1948: arrived in Rio from San Juan by commercial plane, accompanied by his wife, Ana Altigracia Fuensanta Llinas Espallat.

(Field Comment: There is no record of Espallat's having left Rio after 31 May by any commercial means, and it seems likely that he went at least part way to Ciudad Trujillo by Brazilian military aircraft.)

17 July 1948: left Rio by commercial plane.

30 July 1948: arrived in Rio by commercial plane.

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2. Colonel Espallat and his wife signed out of the Aeroporto Hotel on 1 July 1948. They now maintain their residence in apartment 203, Avenida Beira Mar, 216, Rio, apparently together with the personal physician of the Dominican Ambassador to Brazil. Espallat reportedly plans to establish an office in this apartment.

(Field Comment: Since Espallat is going to set up an office, it would appear that the arms transaction has not by any means been completed.)

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3. The secretary of the Dominican Ambassador stated on 21 July that the shipment of arms to the Dominican Republic had not resulted from any agreement between Brazil and the Dominican Republic but was merely a private transaction between friendly governments. He asserted that the recent trip of Col. Espallat to Rio did not concern the arms shipment and that Espallat was merely on vacation. The secretary did affirm that Espallat, an armament technician, had examined the material shipped from Brazil, but only because he happened to be in Rio at the time.

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4. Moyses Darmont, who has been referred to as civilian cutout in the arms transaction, was born in Morocco, but came to Brazil while young. A Brazilian citizen 47 years of age, he is married and resides at Rua Marechal Mascarenhas de Moraes, 99. Since

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May 1947 e has been registered with the Brazilian Government as an importer and exporter with a declared capital of Cr\$ 200,000,00. He maintains stock on hand of his own averaging Cr\$ 70,000,00 and approximately Cr\$ 30,000,00 stock on consignment. His business is insured for Cr\$ 100,000,00. Specializing in the sale of chemical and pharmaceutical products, Darmont represents a number of Brazilian chemical firms, but, so far as has been determined, he does not represent any firms in Central and South America outside of Brazil. He specifically stated that he has never had any business dealings with the Dominican Republic and that he has no friends connected with that country. Darmont has a reputation in commercial circles for being honest and hardworking.

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